

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2004-17  
May 17, 2004

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death, ramorum blight, ramorum die-back),  
Addition of Quarantined Counties – California and Oregon

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On February 14, 2002, APHIS published an interim rule (7 CFR 301.92) in the Federal Register for *Phytophthora ramorum*. This rule regulates the artificial spread of this disease-causing organism from moving out of the counties where the disease is established. We have now learned that a county not yet under quarantine has been found with bay laurels (*Umbellularia californica*) in a wooded setting which are naturally infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*. This was first detected by the U.S. Forest Service and was confirmed and reported to us by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. In addition, the Oregon Department of Agriculture reported to us that they have confirmed infected plants in an area adjacent to that area which is under eradication for *P. ramorum*.

Therefore, effective immediately, we are imposing a temporary designation of quarantine in Lake County in California and that portion of Curry County, Oregon, as follows: In T. 40 S., R. 13 W., secs. 5, 8, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33; southeast quarter of sec. 19; west half of sec. 9; west half of sec. 4; and northeast quarter of sec. 30. Note, the above area description for Curry County is all inclusive of previously regulated and newly regulated area. This action is authorized by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2002, Section 412(a) which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This action is also authorized by 7 CFR 301.92-3(b) which authorizes temporary designation while we proceed toward publishing a rule to add the areas to the list of quarantined areas listed in 7 CFR 301.92-3(c).

This action will be reflected in an interim rule that we anticipate will soon be published in the Federal Register for public comment in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

/s/ Richard L. Dunkle

Richard L. Dunkle  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine